DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's after-final amendment filed on 8/3/2010 was entered.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are pending in the present application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Linda T. Parker, Ph.D., Registration No. 46,046, on August 9-16, 2010.

In the claims:

Claims 1-3 were amended below.

Claim 1 (Currently amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a threonine importer, wherein said DNA molecule consists of continuous nucleotides 1,772 to 3,025 of SEQ. ID. No. 1.

Claim 2 (Currently amended) A method for increasing the yield of threonine produced by a threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain comprising:

(a) inactivating an endogenous threonine importer gene of the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain, wherein the threonine importer gene comprises continuous nucleotides 1,772 to 3,025 of SEQ. ID. No. 1 ~~a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772 nd base to the 3,025th base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1~~, and

(b) culturing the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain of step (a) under suitable conditions, and thereby increasing the yield of threonine produced by the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain in a fermentation medium.

Claim 3 (Currently amended) A threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain[[,]] comprising an inactivated endogenous threonine importer gene, wherein the endogenous ~~said~~ threonine importer gene prior to inactivation comprising continuous nucleotides 1,772 to 3,025 of SEQ. ID. No. 1 ~~a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772 nd base to the 3,025th base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1~~.[[.]]

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang Nguyen, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0776.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Joseph T. Woitach, Ph.D., may be reached at (571) 272-0739.

To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1633; Central Fax No. (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

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/QUANG NGUYEN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1633.